

STANDING WITH ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support for the United States' greatest ally in the Middle East and the region's only democracy, Israel.

When I visited the region, I saw firsthand the proximity of the danger Israelis face on a daily basis.

With the Gaza Strip controlled by the Iranian-funded terror group Hamas, rockets are always pointing at the Jewish state. It is estimated that the militant group has more than 30,000 rockets and mortars at their disposal.

For the past week, Israel and its people have been bombarded by more than 3,000 rockets launched from within Gaza. Thank goodness for the Iron Dome, which, despite being overwhelmed, saved countless lives.

While some on the other side of the aisle and in the media attempt to draw a moral parallel between Hamas and Israel, there is simply no comparison to be made.

As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "You cannot equate a democracy that values life with a terror organization that glorifies death."

Israel has an absolute right to defend itself, and while they make every effort to keep Palestinian civilians from harm, Hamas continues to intentionally target population centers, seeking death and destruction.

Hamas is not interested in peace. They are not interested in working toward a lasting solution. Their only objective is to eliminate the Jewish state.

Why some would choose to back Hamas despite its atrocious human rights record is beyond me. Why back a regime that stifles free speech, prosecutes and assaults the press, treats women as second-class citizens, and has laws on the books that condemn its own citizens to death simply for selling land to a Jewish person?

Madam Speaker, it is mind-boggling.

I stand with Israel, and in doing so, I stand for peace.

CONGRATULATING GRACE CHRISTIAN GOLF TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, author and avid golf fan P.G. Wodehouse once remarked: Golf "is the infallible test. The man who can go into a patch of rough alone, with the knowledge that only God is watching him, and play his ball where it lies is the man who will serve you faithfully and well."

Fittingly, I rise today to recognize Grace Christian School of Staunton, whose golf team won its first Virginia Association of Christian Athletics State championship.

The Warriors shot an 18-hole total of 355 in the championship tournament at the Club at Ironwood to overcome its closest competitor by 32 strokes.

Caleb Maas led the Warriors with an impressive 86, while Preston Fitzgerald and Maddie Helmick each shot a pair of 87s, with Isaiah Farlow carding a 95.

Maas, Fitzgerald, and Helmick were also named to the all-State team for their performances throughout the season.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the athletes, coaches, and staff on an excellent season. I wish them all the best of luck moving forward. And keep hitting them straight.

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. Bordeaux) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, like so many of us in this Chamber, I spend a lot of time on the road driving from event to event.

As someone who represents the metro Atlanta area, I have spent far more hours than I care to admit sitting on I-85 in bumper-to-bumper traffic. My staff have all had the experience of being on the phone with me as I pull off the road and try to find a spot with a strong signal in order to call into events because there is just no way I will make it in time with all the traffic.

Congestion is one of the issues we all hear about with frequency. It is not a Republican issue or a Democratic issue. It is a question I get frequently, regardless of whether I am at a town-hall, speaking to a Chamber of Commerce, or visiting a small business: What is being done to ease congestion?

This question is particularly important as we continue to have a national conversation on infrastructure. Having spent my career in public policy and public finance, I know how important it is that we make smart investments today to set us up for success tomorrow.

That is why recently I rolled out my infrastructure agenda. I call it FutureFit The Suburbs.

FutureFit The Suburbs is a vision to address our growing needs in the suburbs to make smart investments now to prepare for the next century, from preparing for the impact of climate change to building the transit system of tomorrow.

This agenda focuses on the needs of fast-growing suburbs, recognizing the need for transit and congestion relief in order to maintain economic viability while addressing the climate crisis, and doing all of it in a way that leverages public-private partnerships in a fiscally responsible manner.

The key is to do well by doing good. This initial launch of FutureFit The Suburbs contains four initiatives.

First, I am proud to be introducing a new piece of bipartisan legislation today, the Build Up the Suburbs Act, along with Congressman CARLOS GIMENEZ from Florida, and my Georgia colleague, Congresswoman LUCY MCBATH.

Imagine a regional bus rapid transit system that would run along our major highways and express lanes, developing an electric bus equivalent of commuter

rail to help people get from suburban hubs to major commercial hubs while skipping the traffic. The Build Up the Suburbs Act would fund exactly that.

The next time you need to go to the airport, wouldn't it be easier if you didn't have to budget in an extra hour or two just to get there?

Tomorrow, I will be introducing the National and Regional Greenways Act to provide funding for the construction and expansion of greenways across the country, corridors of land connecting disparate communities with beautiful recreational space and environmentally friendly travel routes, thereby reducing congestion and emissions.

This program would support projects like the visionary Chattahoochee River Greenway, a proposed multiuse path that would run along the Chattahoochee River in Georgia.

Beyond immediate transit priorities, FutureFit The Suburbs focuses on how we can be smart in leveraging the power of public-private partnerships to maximize available resources. For example, as more and more shopping goes online, retail malls, and the large plots of land that they sit on, are going unoccupied and unused, taking up valuable real estate. Through low-interest and guaranteed loan programs, these areas can be restored in a way that serves the community.

Finally, creating a national infrastructure bank would provide Federal seed money to leverage significant private sector investment in major infrastructure projects. Private investment is on the sidelines and looking to invest in our roads, bridges, broadband, and electric charging infrastructure.

Change is coming, whether we like it or not. We can make smart investments now that enhance our quality of life, or we can spend a lot more time, money, and effort retrofitting the same projects years down the road.

By investing now, we can help slow the effects of climate change, create jobs, and position the suburbs for success in the years to come.

CELEBRATING JULIA TUCKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure being here today. As we say in east Tennessee, you class up the joint. Thank you for allowing me to be here.

Today, I rise to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of my dearest friends, Julia Tucker, 90 years old.

Julia has served the Knoxville community in many different ways over the years. Julia was the first woman to chair the Knoxville City School Board, where she served with my daddy.

Julia is a force to be reckoned with, and she fights for things that are important to her. Julia once saved her unconscious neighbors' lives during a gas leak by dragging them out of their house.

Since Julia's son, Bill, lost his tragic battle with AIDS in 1991, Julia has dedicated her life to raising money and awareness to combat the disease and also to fight the bigotry. I still have his minibike, a "Lil" Indian, in my collection, and I treasure it very much.

Julia also honored her son by building Williamswood Castle, which is a castle modeled after a Scottish hunting lodge, in Knoxville, Tennessee, Madam Speaker. Bill was a historic preservationist way before his time. People weren't doing things like that, and Bill kind of set the mark for it. Bill was incredibly proud of his family's Scottish heritage, and this castle is a unique way for Julia to preserve her son's memory.

Julia allowed my sweet little girl, Isabelle, to have her birthday party there, and it was magical.

Julia also serves on committees and boards for local organizations. Julia adopts orphan dogs—I guess me being one of them—and fiercely loves her family and friends.

When I was mayor of Knox County, I had the privilege of publicly recognizing Julia's exemplary work in the community, and now I am pleased to stand on the House floor and wish her a happy 90th birthday.

Julia was the first person I knew who had cable TV. She introduced me to Shirley Temples and rare roast beef sandwiches when I was a little boy.

Madam Speaker, I wish Julia a happy birthday. Julia is loved by many people, and especially the Burchetts.

□ 1100

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL ROLLEN DELANO BRADSHAW

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Rollen Delano Bradshaw, an American hero and Korean War veteran, as Tennessee's Second Congressional District's Veteran of the Month.

Corporal Bradshaw was rejected three times from joining the military during the Korean War because of his partial blindness, but he didn't let that get in the way of his patriotism. With just a seventh-grade education and a whole lot of persistence, he memorized the eye chart and was accepted into the United States Army on his fourth attempt.

Corporal Bradshaw served in Korea for 18 months, where he worked as a postal clerk delivering mail to his fellow soldiers. While deployed, Corporal Bradshaw earned the Korean Service Medal with Bronze Star, the United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

Following his service, Corporal Bradshaw spent 17 years in American Legion leadership roles, serving as commander at Post 120 for 15 years and as Tennessee's national executive committeeman for 20 years.

Corporal Bradshaw remains dedicated to his military fraternity to this day.

Every year, he coordinates Loudon County's Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies. Our country's heroes are the men and women of our Armed Forces and those that wear our country's badges, like Corporal Rollen D. Bradshaw, who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

Thank you for your service. And, brother, I am truly sorry to hear about the passing of your sweet wife.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN EADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as our Nation approaches Memorial Day 2021, I am deeply privileged to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the true story of a great soldier and an agonizing battle during the War in Vietnam.

The story recounts the superhuman valor of a great army soldier named John Eade, heroic son of my hometown of Toledo, Ohio. John is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. He is a faithful friend and a true patriot, a superlatively strong soldier, yet a humble decorated warrior for liberty. Yes, he is a Purple Heart and more. He has been tested beyond human limits his entire life. He has triumphed against overwhelming odds, including lifelong war wounds, time and time again.

In November 1965, Sergeant John Eade, then 21, was deployed in Vietnam, a fire team leader in the 1st Calvary division and its ill-fated 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company. On November 14, 1965, Sergeant Eade and his team were sent to reinforce their sister battalion that was engaged in very heavy fighting at Landing Zone X-Ray in La Drang Valley. Two days later, believing the enemy was destroyed and the worst fighting seemingly over, the 1st and 2nd Platoons Bravo were all choppered out. But John Eade and his team left Landing Zone X-ray the morning of November 17, marching 10 kilometers to nearby Landing Zone Albany. They were the first to arrive.

They established the command post and defense perimeter, and other companies were still coming up the trail. Sergeant Eade, with Alpha's 2nd Platoon, was sent into the trees to the left while the 1st Platoon went right. That is when the two much larger North Vietnamese regiments encamped nearby attacked.

Sergeant Eade's platoon was immediately pinned down in ferocious hand-to-hand combat as the North Vietnamese swarmed down on them through the trees. Sergeant Eade reflected, "it was like a gang fight. It was small groups of us versus small groups of them. It got down to knives. It got down to choking people."

Sergeant Eade and his team, Wilbert Johnson, Barry Burnite, and Oscar Barker, Jr., tried to outflank the at-

tacking Vietnamese but were badly outnumbered. Eade recounts: "Burnite, a machine gunner, was hit in the chest by shrapnel and his gun was disabled. Johnson, his crewman, dragged Burnite 30 meters back to a position of cover in an effort to save him." Eade recounted, "It was the greatest feat of human strength I have ever witnessed. I don't know if Burnite was still alive."

Johnson and Barker holed up amongst some trees and continued to fight. Johnson was killed and Eade was shot in the gut and the right shoulder, forcing him to fire his M-16 left-handed. Under RPC fire, Eade said his legs and boots were sprayed with shrapnel that left a large piece stuck in his foot, leaving him unable to walk.

Barker tended to Eade's wounds. Everyone else was dead. Eade urged Barker to flee 50 meters beyond the woods where the command element was situated. Barker refused. Shortly thereafter, Barker was shot and Eade attended him as he slowly died. Eade later reflected: "I don't think anyone who studies war doesn't get stuck on the Battle of Thermopylae. It is that thing of standing our ground to the last man. If you had your chance to cut out or stay, you would have stayed."

Despite some misgivings, according to official records, the U.S. Command Post called in a napalm strike on Sergeant Eade's position. As a result, Sergeant Eade was set on fire and severely burned because of the air strike. He was further weakened but still alive. He managed to roll in the dirt to put out the flames.

Sergeant Eade recalled that, among his problems, the napalm proved inconsequential. In fact, he said, "the napalm served a purpose by flushing the enemy out and gave me an opportunity to reduce the Vietcong numbers."

Later in the afternoon, still conscious but bleeding, he said he was surprised by the sudden appearance of three enemy soldiers behind him. "There were three North Vietnamese looking at me, one with a pistol." Eade said he shot and killed two, but was shot in the face by the one with the pistol.

The small caliber bullet destroyed his right eye socket and shattered parts of the sinus, making it difficult to breathe. He was knocked unconscious. When he came to, the third Vietnamese was gone.

Small groups of North Vietnamese continued moving through the area until about midnight, Eade said. And he stopped using his rifle after dark so he wouldn't give away his position. He said he managed to crawl around and throw grenades at some parties he assumed were removing their dead after midnight. The enemy activity ended. He recalls it was a struggle to stay awake. He was on his third night without sleep and believed if he fell asleep, he would be found and killed.

Dawn came. He was still alive, though horribly wounded. Around 9 or 10 in the morning, Infantryman Eade